



YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

ANNOUNCEMENT

U.S. EMBASSY

2012 YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM WITH SOUTHEAST ASIA FOR STUDENT LEADERS

Host Institution –
East-West Centre, Hawaii

October 28 – November 19, 2012



Deadline for Applications: September 17, 2012

1. Program Description

Malaysian student leaders are invited to apply for participation in the 2012 Youth Leadership Program with Southeast Asia. Five student leaders and one adult educator from Malaysia will join similar groups from other countries in Southeast Asia. The host organization in the United States is East-West Centre in Honolulu, Hawaii.

This program is designed to promote high-quality leadership, civic responsibility, and community engagement among our countries' future leaders. The exchanges will offer a practical examination of the principles of democracy and civil society as practiced in the United States and provide participants with training that allows them to develop their leadership skills.

In addition to the themes of civic education, community service, and leadership, the program may also explore the theme of environmental care and protection.

Participants will visit several communities in the United States, including Washington, DC. The program will focus on interactive activities, opportunities to talk with youth and adult community leaders, interactions with government and community organizations, community service, conflict resolution, peer interaction and building leadership skills. The program will include some school-based activities so that participants can meet their American peers, experience a U.S. school environment, and participate in some classes. Cultural and recreational activities will balance the schedule. Participants will also experience American family life while participating in a home stay.

2. Institute Objectives

This is an intensive program with three segments: (1) A pre-departure orientation; (2) a 22-day exchange program that will offer students the opportunity to explore the principles of leadership and community engagement in the United States; and (3) follow-on activities, where participants will conduct projects in their home communities. The program will be intensive, academic, and highly interactive. The program sponsors seek energetic applicants who are ready to develop their skills in order to be effective leaders in their schools and communities.

The program will employ a highly interactive approach both in workshops and in a range of public and community settings. Through engagement with the activities of U.S. high schools, community organizations, youth groups, and community leaders in each location, the student will better understand civic participation and the rights and responsibilities of citizens in a democracy.

3. Funding

The United States Government, in conjunction with its partner East-West Centre, will pay for domestic transportation, international transportation to and from the United States, orientations, program fees and administration, site visits and seminars, lodging and most meals, some cultural activities, educational materials, accident and sickness coverage, and a modest amount of pocket money. Participants will stay with volunteer host families.

Participants are responsible for expenses related to the application process (copying, mailing, photographs, etc.) and spending money for souvenirs, telephone calls, and other personal items in the United States.

4. Program requirements and restrictions

Participants will travel to the United States on J-1 exchange visitor visas provided through this program. By accepting this visa, participants will be subject to a two-year home residency requirement, meaning they must return to and live in their home country for a total of two years before they would be eligible for an immigrant or temporary worker U.S. visa. This does not restrict other types of visas. For example, this would not prevent you from being able to apply for a student visa to attend university.

5. Candidate qualifications

Student applicants must.....

- be a Malaysian citizen
- must be 15 years old by the start of the exchange program (born between January 1, 1997 and December 31, 1997)
- must be students in Form Three
- have good English skills and are strong academically
- have demonstrated leadership in their schools and/or communities
- have permission from parents (and schools, if missing any classes) to participate in the entire program.

6. To apply for the institute

Applicants should submit an application for this program by fax or e-mail. The application deadline is **September 17, 2012**. The electronic application form may be viewed and downloaded from <http://malaysia.usembassy.gov/ylp.html>

To submit an application or to request more program details, all interested candidates are welcome to contact Helena Bridget, Public Affairs, American Embassy, 376 Jalan Tun Razak, 50400 Kuala Lumpur. Tel: (03) 2168-5106; fax: (03) 2148-9192 e-mail: publicaffairskl@gmail.com

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